

**Kentucky Board of Education Regular Meeting
February 3, 2021 9:00 AM
Kentucky Department of Education, 300 Sower Boulevard
Frankfort, KY 40601
Video Teleconference Meeting**

Minutes

The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) held its regular meeting on February 3, 2021. Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-243 and a memorandum issued by the Finance and Administration Cabinet dated March 16, 2020, and in an effort to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), the KBE met utilizing a video teleconference. Members of the public were not be permitted to attend the meeting in person, but were encouraged to view the meeting on the Kentucky Department of Education’s (KDE) Media Portal. The board conducted the following business:

1. Call the meeting to order

Chair Young welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. ET. Chair Young reminded members that the meeting still must comply with the requirements of the Open Meeting Act. Chair Young also stated that for any items that required a vote, a roll call vote was necessary to record the vote of each board member. Additionally, Chair Young shared the vision of the board’s July 10 resolution and highlighted one statement from the resolution, “critical conversations about racial trauma and implicit bias are needed across Kentucky regardless of the racial makeup in our schools, districts, or communities.”

2. Roll Call

Chair Young asked for a roll call of members. The following members were present: JoAnn Adams, Claire Batt, Holly Bloodworth, Alvis Johnson, Patrice McCrary, Randy Poe, Sharon Porter Robinson, Lee Todd, Lu Young, Lt. Governor Jacqueline Coleman, Amanda Ellis on behalf of CPE President Dr. Aaron Thompson, Solyana Mesfin and Allison Slone.

KBE members Mike Bowling and Cody Pauley Johnson were absent.

KDE Policy Advisor Leslie Slaughter stated a quorum was present.

3. Internal Board Business

A. Approval of Summary Minutes for December 2, 2020 Regular Meeting and January 28, 2021 Awards Committee Meeting (Action/Discussion Item)

Chair Young shared that the minutes for December 2, 2020 Regular Meeting and January 28, 2021 Awards Committee Meeting were distributed to members in advance. The chair asked for any corrections to any of these minutes; there were none.

Chair Young asked for a motion to approve the minutes and Lee Todd made the motion. Claire Batt seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

B. Discussion and Approval of the KBE Robinson Award for Diversity and Equity in Public Education Award Recipient (Action/Discussion Item)

Patrice McCrary, on behalf of the Awards Committee, shared that the committee met on January 28, 2021 and determined that two very worthy candidates best met the criteria of the award, candidates 19 and 24. Accordingly, Committee Chair McCrary moved approval of candidates 19 and 24 as co-recipients of the Kentucky Board of Education Robinson Award for Diversity and Equity in Public Education and asked the chair for the board's approval to recognize candidates 19 and 24 at the board's upcoming April 7 regular meeting. Coming from committee, this motion did not require a second and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

C. Approval of KBE Member Participation in 2021 National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Virtual Legislative Conference on March 22-23, 2021 (Action/Discussion Item)

Chair Young shared information on the NASBE Legislative Conference which will be held virtually due to the continued impacts of COVID-19. Chair Young shared that agenda information is still forthcoming from NASBE and requested approval for up to five (5) members to attend. Chair Young stated that once additional information is made available regarding the agenda and schedule, board members will be polled for availability to determine who may attend on behalf of the board. Chair Young stated the registration fee is anticipated to be no more than \$150 per person; thus, the financial impact to the board would total approximately \$750.00.

Chair Young asked for a motion to approve up to five members attend the 2021 National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Virtual Legislative Conference. Alvis Johnson made the motion. Randy Poe seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

4. Kentucky KIDS COUNT Data Presentation (Review Item)

Terry Brooks, Executive Director of the Kentucky Youth Advocates organization, along with his associates Patricia Tennen, and Mahak Kalra provided an overview of the KIDS COUNT annual report and entertained questions and discussion from board members.

5. Action to Suspend Standing Committee Meetings (Action/Discussion Item)

Chair Young announced that the board needed to take action to suspend standing committees as they are established in the KBE Policy Manual. Committee meetings needed to be suspended during this meeting due to teleconferencing limitations and for efficiency.

Patrice McCrary made a motion to suspend standing committee meetings. Holly Bloodworth seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

6. Good News Items (Review Item)

Lee Todd shared the story of Fayette County Public School 11th grade student, Grayson Kemplin who participated in youth engagement conversations with the Biden-Harris Transition Team; Sharon Robinson highlighted National Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month and highlighted the role that CTE has in preparing students for both careers and postsecondary education; Claire Batt shared information regarding Kentucky educators receiving priority vaccine roll-out and gave an update on the status; Solyana Mesfin highlighted a Jefferson County elementary school student's perspective on the pandemic and JoAnn Adams highlighted Kentucky's iLEAD Academy receiving the United States Department of Education grant for a groundbreaking effort to train teachers to teach computer science in elementary and middle school.

7. Report from the President of the Council on Postsecondary Education – CPE Associate Vice President Amanda Ellis

CPE Associate Vice President Dr. Amanda Ellis presented brief update on the postsecondary initiatives and updated the board on the inaugural meeting of the Commonwealth Education Continuum.

8. Report from the Secretary of the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet

Lt. Governor Coleman provided a brief update on work and initiatives from the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet. Lt. Governor Coleman highlighted the inclusion of a representative from the Office of Early Childhood Education and the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board Executive Director on the Commonwealth Education Continuum. Lt. Governor Coleman also included updates on the vaccine roll out, the continued initiatives around educator workforce diversity and implementing professional learning opportunities around implicit bias and cultural competency. Lt. Governor Coleman also gave an update regarding Kentucky's broadband initiative.

9. Report from the Commissioner of Education

Dr. Glass announced Dr. Meredith Brewer as the new KDE Director of Education Policy and stated Dr. Brewer will serve as the executive director for the Kentucky Board of Education and as the federal liaison with the U.S. Department of Education and that she will also work with the KDE Director of Government Relations and key policy staff on the development and execution of education policy. Dr. Glass announced the resignation of Joette Fields effective March 1, 2021. Dr. Glass also announced to the board that he will hold a virtual listening tour with nine sessions that will commence on April 6 and conclude on May 6, 2021. Dr. Glass introduced new KDE staff and gave updates on ESSER II Funding and Guidance, ESEA Consolidated State Plan, as well as updates on the Kentucky School for the Blind, the Kentucky School for the Deaf and ATC Updates.

10. Update on Equity Related Initiatives (Review Item)

KDE Deputy Commissioner and Chief Equity Officer, Dr. Thomas Woods-Tucker provided an update on KDE's current equity-related initiatives that included Kentucky Academic Standards Implementation; Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) High-Quality Instructional Resources Professional Learning Project; Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Cross-Agency KDE Project.

11. Approval of Consent Agenda (Approved as a Group)

This item allowed the board to approve the consent agenda as a group in one action as opposed to hearing each individual agenda item. KDE staff identified these items as those that were non-controversial and routine in nature. The items contained in the consent agenda, were as follows:

A. Action Consent Items

1. Approval of New District Facility Plans for the Leslie County, Martin County, Owen County and Russellville Independent School Districts - KDE Associate Commissioner Robin Kinney and KDE Division Director Chay Ritter
2. Approval of District Facility Plan Amendment for the Madison County School District - KDE Associate Commissioner Robin Kinney and KDE Division Director Chay Ritter (Family/Community Involvement)
3. Approval of 2020-2021 Local District Tax Rates Levied - KDE Associate Commissioner Robin Kinney and KDE Division Director Chay Ritter (Family/Community Involvement)
4. Amendment to 702 KAR 5:080, Bus Drivers' Qualifications, Responsibilities and Training (First Reading) - KDE Associate Commissioner Robin Kinney and KDE Branch Manager Elisa Hanley (Family/Community Involvement)
5. Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) Advisory Board Appointment – KDE Associate Commissioner Gretta Hylton and KDE Division Director Carol Ann Morrison

The Chair reminded the board members the consent agenda was distributed to members in advance of the meeting to allow sufficient time for review. Chair Young asked if any member wished to have any of the consent agenda items moved to regular discussion items.

No items were moved off of the consent agenda. Chair Young asked for a motion to approve all items on the consent agenda. Sharon Robinson made the motion and JoAnn Adams seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

12. Presentation of Special Education Teacher of the Year and Mary May Wyman Outstanding Member of the Year Awards – Commissioner Jason E. Glass, Ed.D., KDE Associate Commissioner Gretta Hylton and Kentucky Council for Exceptional Children Past President, Dr. Merissa Wadley.

Commissioner Glass opened with brief remarks and turned over the floor to Associate Commissioner Gretta Hylton who explained the nomination process for the Special Education Teacher of the Year award. Associate Commissioner Hylton recognized Ms.

Savannah Boone as 2020 Special Education Teacher of the Year and also recognized and congratulated Ms. Jessica Tipton and Ms. Amber Ervin as finalists. Associate Commissioner made brief remarks. Dr. Merissa Wadley recognized KDE Associate Commissioner Gretta Hylton as the recipient of the 2020 Mary May Wyman Outstanding Member of the Year award.

13. Presentation of the 2020 Kevin C. Brown Strategic Priority Award

Commissioner Jason E. Glass, joined by former interim Commissioner Kevin C. Brown presented the award to Soup for the Soul from Murray, Kentucky. Olivia Robison and Melinda Hendley from Soup for the Soul as well as their nominator, Noraa Ransey joined the meeting virtually to accept the award and share remarks.

14. 30-Minute Recess (No Business Was Conducted)

15. Public Comment Segment – Public Expression Will Be Accepted Via Email Only and Limited to 30 Minutes.

Chair Young reminded the public that public expression was solicited via the meeting's news release and distributed to members and staff prior to the meeting. Chair Young stated the board received two (2) public comments via email from two (2) individuals. The first comment, received on January 26, 2021 was from the Kentucky Association for Assessment Coordinators (KAAC). Their comments pertained to the currently proposed amendments to Kentucky's accountability system. The letter from this association outlining their feedback was sent to KBE members in advance of the meeting and were posted on the KSBA portal for public viewing.

The second comment, received on February 1, 2021, was from Mr. Donnie Wilkerson. His comments pertained to the content of Kentucky's Academic Standards in Social Studies, as well as the need for systemic pedagogical change and the need for reform of the state's assessment and accountability systems. Mr. Wilkerson's comments were sent to the KBE members in advance of the meeting and were posted to the KSBA portal for public viewing.

Chair Young thanked the individuals on behalf of all KBE members and thanked them for taking the time to share their feedback and concerns with the board and stated the KBE always appreciates the opportunity to hear from constituents on matters that pertain to K12 education across the Commonwealth.

16. Action/Discussion Items

A. Amendments to 703 KAR 5:270 Kentucky's Accountability System (Second Reading)

KDE Associate Commissioner Rhonda Sims and KDE Division Directors Jennifer Stafford and Kevin Hill provided an overview of the proposed amendments and discussed feedback received from various stakeholder groups.

Randy Poe made the motion to approve the amendments to 703 KAR 5:270, Kentucky's Accountability System. Patrice McCrary seconded the motion and the motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

B. Approval of 2020-2021 Local District Working Budget for the Ashland Independent School District.

KDE Associate Commissioner Robin Kinney and KDE Division Director Chay Ritter and joined by Ashland Independent Superintendent Sean Howard shared his district's working budget and plans for addressing its financial situation.

Chair Young asked for a motion to approve the 2020-2021 Local District Working Budget for the Ashland Independent School District. The motion was made by Alvis Johnson and JoAnn Adams seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

17. Review Items

A. Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) Strategic Planning Update

KDE's Chief Performance Officer Karen Dodd provided an update on the KDE strategic planning dashboard and potential metrics, the "keep, stop, start" survey results, and the Commissioner's upcoming virtual listening tour which is slated to begin in April.

B. Continued Discussion on Kentucky's Assessment System

KDE Associate Commissioner Rhonda Sims and KDE Division Director Jennifer Stafford continued the discussion with KBE members on the future of Kentucky's assessment system and work underway with various external partners.

C. Process for Developing the Six Year Capital Improvement Plan Governed by KRS 7A

KDE Associate Commissioner Robin Kinney and KDE Division Director Karen Wirth provided an overview of the process for developing KDE's 6-year capital improvement plan and steps that will occur over the coming months regarding this.

D. Updates on the State Budget and the 2021 Legislative Session of the Kentucky General Assembly

KDE Associate Commissioner Robin Kinney, KDE Director of Government Relations Chuck Truesdell and KDE Director Karen Wirth provided updates on the progress pertaining to the FY22 state budget, as well as legislation currently being considered by the Kentucky General Assembly.

E. Update on the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021

Dr. Glass, KDE Associate Commissioner Robin Kinney and KDE Director Karen Wirth discussed Kentucky's second allocation of federal CARES Act funding, permissible uses of the funds, and timelines.

18. Hearing Officers' Report (Review Item)

KDE General Counsel Todd Allen presented a review of regulations currently being promulgated through the Kentucky General Assembly.

19. Litigation Report

KDE General Counsel Todd G. Allen shared that the litigation report, which provided updates to the KBE on pending litigation involving the KBE and/or KDE, could be found on the internal board portal. There was no requirement for the KBE to go into closed session.

20. Board Member Sharing (Review Item)

Board members shared thanks for progress that is being made with assessment and various other KDE initiatives. Board members also thanked Leslie Slaughter and Joette Fields for their work with the board.

21. Adjournment

Chair Young thanked the KBE members for another meeting. She then asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Patrice McCrary made the motion to adjourn and JoAnn Adams seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.